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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/812,553	03/30/2004	Johannes Ruetschi	2003P19276 US	3401
7590	10/21/2008		EXAMINER	
Elsa Keller Siemens Corporation Intellectual Property Department 170 Wood Avenue South Iselin, NJ 08830				SAMS, MATTHEW C
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2617		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		10/21/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/812,553	RUETSCHI, JOHANNES	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MATTHEW SAMS	2617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 July 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/17/2008 has been entered.

2. Claims 1, 6, 10, 12, 16, 20 and 24 have been amended.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 5/16/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to the applicant's argument regarding claims 1, 12, 16, 20 and 24 that the prior art of record does not show or suggest "ones of said system users are associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices" and "for each of said ones said identity context reminder service monitors multiple associated devices of said plurality of communications devices for inconsistencies in one or more" (Page 9), the examiner respectfully disagrees.

Koskinen teaches "different users and even the same user may have several different portable devices in connection with which the invention can be applied" (Col. 4 lines 51-54) and "wherein a set of portable devices is defined for the action, wherein if

the conditions for activating the action are met in one portable device from said set of portable devices, the action is activated". (Col. 14 lines 49-53) Further, Koskinen teaches defining an action in a server, multiple portable devices related to the action, monitoring the locations of the devices to determine if any of the devices are not where they should be for the defined action and transmitting information about the action to the devices as a reminder. (Col. 14 lines 17-64)

Claim Objections

5. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: A "computer program product", "computer usable medium" and "computer-readable medium" are not disclosed in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 16-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 16-23 are directed to a "computer program product" that comprises a "computer usable medium", however the specification fails to clearly define a "computer program product" and a "computer usable medium", therefore the claimed limitation can be broadly and reasonably interpreted as a program per se, which is non-statutory.

The examiner is not giving a non-statutory rejection to claims 24-26 because the examiner is assuming a statutory configuration because the computer-readable medium has instructions stored thereon and are being executed by a processor. However, the “computer-readable medium” needs to be added to the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray (US-6,484,033) in view of Koskinen et al. (US-7,039,420 hereinafter, Koskinen).

Regarding claim 1, Murray teaches a communication system comprising:

a plurality of communications devices communicating with each other over a network; (Fig. 1 [60, 62 & 66])

a storage on said network storing location and presence information about system users, each of said plurality of communications devices being identifiable with at least one system user; (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43) and

an identity context reminder service monitoring said plurality of communications devices for current location and presence status for associated users and comparing said current location and presence status for inconsistencies with an expected location and presence for said associated users from stored said location and presence

information, said identity context reminder service selectively providing a reminder to respective communications device of said plurality of communications devices responsive to an inconsistency. (Fig. 6 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Murray differs from the claimed invention by not explicitly reciting each one of said associated users are associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices, wherein for each of said ones said identity context reminder service monitors multiple associated devices of said plurality of communications devices for inconsistencies in one or more.

In an analogous art, Koskinen teaches a method and system for presenting reminders in a portable device (Abstract, Col. 14 lines 17-27) that includes having a user that is associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices (Col. 14 lines 49-53) and a notification service, said identity context reminder service monitoring a plurality of communication devices associated with a single user and said notification service providing said reminder to said selected one. (Col. 14 lines 17-27 and lines 49-53 *i.e.* if any one of the devices isn't where it should be, the reminder is sent) At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to implement the invention of Murray after modifying it to incorporate a group of devices associated with a single user as taught Koskinen since it is well known that a single user may possess several different portable devices (personal cell-phone, work cell-phone, etc. and Koskinen Col. 4 lines 51-54) at different times throughout a day (or alternatively, in different locations) but wishes to receive reminders regardless of which device the user has in their possession. In other

words, it is well within the scope of one of ordinary skill to be motivated to provide a single service (*i.e.* schedule reminders) to a user regardless of where the user is located and to whatever device the user has in their possession (or is currently using).

Regarding claim 2, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches a presence service receiving current presence status for said associated users from said plurality of communication devices and providing received said presence status to said identity context reminder service. (Murray Fig. 10 & Fig. 11)

Regarding claim 3, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches at least one said reminder indicates that a user associated with said respective communication device is at a location other than a previously scheduled expected location. (Murray Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Regarding claim 4, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches a location service receiving current location status for said associated users from said plurality of communications devices and providing received said location status for said associated users to said identity context reminder service. (Murray Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Regarding claim 5, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches at least one said reminder indicates that an associated user identified to said respective communications device is at a location other than an expected location for said associated user. (Murray Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Regarding claim 6, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches a notification service, said identity context reminder service identifying a selected one of said plurality of

communications devices and said notification service providing said reminder to said selected one. (Murray Fig. 2 [108], Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Regarding claim 7, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches the notification service is a text based messaging service. (Murray Col. 3 lines 24-63 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 8, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches the text based messaging service is selected from the group consisting of e-mail, instant messaging and short message service (SMS). (Murray Col. 3 lines 24-63)

Regarding claim 9, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches an identity context reminder client on at least one communications device of said plurality of communications devices, said identity context reminder client facilitating managing identity context reminder notifications from said at least one communications device. (Murray Fig. 2 & Fig. 3)

Regarding claim 10, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches at least one of said communication devices is a mobile station in a cellular phone network. (Murray Fig. 1, Fig. 2, Fig. 3 and Koskinen Col. 4 lines 49-51)

Regarding claim 11, Murray in view of Koskinen teaches the storage is a central storage and said identity content service is located on a server with said central storage (Murray Fig. 1 [76]), and said communications system further comprises a rules based engine on said server monitoring said current location and presence status on said

plurality of communications devices for said associated users and providing said identity context reminder service. (Murray Fig. 6 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 12, Murray teaches a method of maintaining location and presence status current in a communications system including a plurality of communications devices networked together said method comprising the steps of:

storing location and presence information for a user identified with one or more communications devices; (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

monitoring a plurality of communications devices for current location and presence status for associated users; (Fig. 3 [111] and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

comparing said current location and presence status to stored said location and presence information to identify inconsistencies for said associated users; (Fig. 6 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43) and

sending a notification to an identified user at a corresponding one of said one or more communications devices. (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Murray differs from the claimed invention by not explicitly reciting each one of said associated users are associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices, wherein for each of said ones said identity context reminder service monitors multiple associated devices of said plurality of communications devices for inconsistencies in one or more.

In an analogous art, Koskinen teaches a method and system for presenting reminders in a portable device (Abstract, Col. 14 lines 17-27) that includes having a user that is associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices (Col. 14 lines 49-53) and a notification service, said identity context reminder service monitoring a plurality of communication devices associated with a single user and said notification service providing said reminder to said selected one. (Col. 14 lines 17-27 and lines 49-53 *i.e.* if any one of the devices isn't where it should be, the reminder is sent) At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to implement the invention of Murray after modifying it to incorporate a group of devices associated with a single user as taught Koskinen since it is well known that a single user may possess several different portable devices (personal cell-phone, work cell-phone, etc. and Koskinen Col. 4 lines 51-54) at different times throughout a day (or alternatively, in different locations) but wishes to receive reminders regardless of which device the user has in their possession. In other words, it is well within the scope of one of ordinary skill to be motivated to provide a single service (*i.e.* schedule reminders) to a user regardless of where the user is located and to whatever device the user has in their possession (or is currently using).

Regarding claim 13, Murray teaches the notification is provided as a text message displayed by at least one of said one or more communications devices. (Col. 3 lines 24-63 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 14, Murray teaches the step of updating stored location and presence information. (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43 and Fig. 3 [111])

Regarding claim 15, Murray teaches one or more communications devices is a plurality of communication devices (the Examiner views this as the applicant being their own lexicographer and changing “a plurality” to mean one communication device) identified with a particular communications system user, said stored location and presence information for said particular communications system user being updated and managed from said one or more communications devices. (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Regarding claim 16, the limitations of claim 16 are rejected as being the same reasons set forth above in claim 12.

Regarding claim 17, the limitations of claim 17 are rejected as being the same reasons set forth above in claim 13.

Regarding claim 18, Murray teaches the text messaging services comprise e-mail, instant messaging and short message service (SMS). (Col. 3 lines 24-63).

Regarding claim 19, the limitations of claim 14 are rejected as being the same reasons set forth above in claim 14.

Regarding claim 20, Murray teaches a computer program product for managing location and presence information for users associated with a communications device amongst a plurality of communications devices networked together in a communications system, said computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code thereon, said computer readable program code comprising:

computer program code means for providing current user location and presence status to a location context reminder service, (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

each communication device providing location and presence information to said communication system, (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43 and Fig. 2 [79])

computer program code means for indicating receipt of reminders, received said reminders indicating inconsistencies between expected current said user location and presence information and actual current said user location and presence status; (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67) and

computer program code means for providing user location and presence information updates to said location context reminder service. (Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43, Fig. 6, Fig. 7 and Col. 10 lines 5-67)

Murray differs from the claimed invention by not explicitly reciting each one of said associated users are associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices, wherein for each of said ones said identity context reminder service monitors multiple associated devices of said plurality of communications devices for inconsistencies in one or more.

In an analogous art, Koskinen teaches a method and system for presenting reminders in a portable device (Abstract, Col. 14 lines 17-27) that includes having a user that is associated with more than one of said plurality of communications devices (Col. 14 lines 49-53) and a notification service, said identity context reminder service monitoring a plurality of communication devices associated with a single user and said notification service providing said reminder to said selected one. (Col. 14 lines 17-27

and lines 49-53 *i.e.* if any one of the devices isn't where it should be, the reminder is sent) At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to be motivated to implement the invention of Murray after modifying it to incorporate a group of devices associated with a single user as taught Koskinen since it is well known that a single user may possess several different portable devices (personal cell-phone, work cell-phone, etc. and Koskinen Col. 4 lines 51-54) at different times throughout a day (or alternatively, in different locations) but wishes to receive reminders regardless of which device the user has in their possession. In other words, it is well within the scope of one of ordinary skill to be motivated to provide a single service (*i.e.* schedule reminders) to a user regardless of where the user is located and to whatever device the user has in their possession (or is currently using).

Regarding claim 21, Murray teaches computer program code for indicating reminders comprises computer program code means for text messaging. (Col. 3 lines 24-63 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 22, Murray teaches computer program code means for text messaging is selected from a group consisting of:

computer program code means for sending and receiving e-mail; (Col. 3 lines 24-63)

computer program code means for instant messaging; (Col. 3 lines 24-63) and
computer program code means for sending and receiving short message service (SMS) messages. (Col. 3 lines 24-63 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 23, Murray teaches a computer program code means for indicating reminders selects said computer program code means for text messaging from said group. (Col. 3 lines 24-63 and Col. 4 line 60 through Col. 5 line 43)

Regarding claim 24, the limitations of claim 24 are rejected as being the same reason set forth above in claim 12.

Regarding claim 25, the limitations of claim 25 are rejected as being the same reason set forth above in claim 13.

Regarding claim 26, the limitations of claim 26 are rejected as being the same reason set forth above in claim 14.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW SAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-8099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MCS
10/15/2008

/Lester Kincaid/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617